

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Vol. 5, No. 1

January -- 1940

CHIEF FORESTER IS DEAD

News of the death, December 20, of Ferdinand A. Silcox, Chief of the U. S. Forest Service since November 15, 1933, came as a shock to members of the Prairie States Forestry Project. Mr. Silcox had been ill for about a week, but there had been strong hope for his recovery. He died at his Alexandria, Virginia, home.

Mr. Silcox would have been 57 years old on Christmas Day. He was born at Columbus, Georgia, December 25, 1882. He received his B.S. degree from the College of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1903, graduating with honors in chemistry and sociology, and in 1905 he was graduated from the Yale University School of Forestry with the degree of Master of Forestry.

Mr. Silcox entered the U. S. Forest Service as a ranger on July 1, 1905, having passed the Civil Service examination, and was assigned to the old Leadville National Forest. In September of that year he was placed in charge of the Holy Cross National Forest, also in Colorado, as acting supervisor. Early in January, 1906, he was sent to the San Juan and Montezuma National Forests in Colorado to set up administrative organizations. After completing this work, he became a Forest Inspector at Washington, D. C., handling special assignments to the western states. When a district office was established at Missoula, Montana, in 1908, Mr. Silcox was made Associate District Forester, being promoted to District Forester for the Northern Rocky Mountain Region on July 1, 1911. He held that position until 1917.

Soon after the outbreak of the World War, Mr. Silcox was granted military leave and was commissioned captain in the Twentieth (Forest) Engineers of the American Expeditionary Force. Less than a year later he was chosen by the Secretary of Labor and the Shipping Board to head a bureau to handle labor problems at the Seattle, Washington, shipyards.

After the war, Mr. Silcox became Director of Industrial Relations at Chicago for the commercial printing industry, remaining there until 1922 when he became Director of Industrial Relations of the New York Employing Printers' Association. On November 15, 1933, he reentered the Forest Service as Chief Forester, succeeding the late Robert Y. Stuart.

Chief Silcox was a member of the Society of American Foresters and Phi Kappa Sigma. He was a great Chief, a leader in guarding American democracy and striving to remedy the nation's social ills. To him, public service was an ideal

The entire Forest Service mourns the loss of its leader, and the Prairie States Forestry Project joins in extending deepest sympathies to Mrs. Marie Louise Thatcher Silcox, his widow.

PINE SURVIVAL STUDY IN HUTCHINSON DISTRICT

Last fall, while he was visiting the Hutchinson District, Mr. Lobenstein asked us to seek the reasons for the excellence of certain stands of pine, and Mr. Briggs' request in October PLAINS FORESTER prompts this summary of our investigation.

The seven best belts, whose yellow pine survival of 68 percent (from 57 to 74 percent) was above the District average, were examined. We realize that there is a myriad of possibilities which affect pine survival, so we list below points in common to all or most of the belts, apparently eliminating other causes.

All are on land classified by the examiner as "favorable," five of the seven on level and two on slightly rolling ground. Topsoil varies from very sandy to loam and most of the subsoils are clay. Three of the sites are of the sandier type and four the heavier types of soil. The water table is at a depth of from 12 to 40 feet. Wheat was the previous ground cover on six of the sites and sand burs on the seventh. The best survival of all, 74 percent, is in a belt on land that had been in alfalfa for years, wheat having been grown there the year before the shelterbelt was planted.

Except for one belt, where the site was prepared December 20, all ground preparation was done after February 20. Three of the heavier land sites were subsoiled after March 1 and one on December 20, while three of the sites were not subsoiled at all. Type of tool for ground preparation apparently was unimportant. The four heavier soil sites were left level but the three sandier sites were listed. Survival of all species in these belts is very high, one having an average of over 93 percent.

Soil moisture conditions were good, one belt being planted in the mud. With minor exceptions, weather was cool, cloudy and calm at planting time. The trees were planted on the heavier land sites in the standard manner, but those on the sandier sites were planted in lister furrows. Small stock did less well than the larger plants. Two of the belts were planted between March 18 and April 3, and five between April 3 and about the middle of the month, three of them about the 15th. Special and regular crews were used with apparently no difference in results. All belts were well cultivated during the summer.

Very few unusual facts are to be noted in the foregoing. Below are our personal conclusions after the study:

1. Any one of numerous causes is sufficient to cause poor survival.

2. On sandier land, trees should be planted in lister furrows to protect them from hot winds, sandblasting, etc. Although this practice is frowned upon by the Regional Office, it should be permitted when the co-operator understands cultivation after furrow planting and has proper equipment.

3. The roots of all conifers should be dipped in a mud bath before the trees are taken to the field. This will give considerable protection to the tender roots and avoid drying out. Since conifer roots are so fibrous and so naked when the plants are received, it is the best protection we can give them before subjecting them to the rigors of transplanting and the cheapest insurance against excessive losses.

4. Utilize rainy, cool and calm days as much as possible for setting out conifer stock.

- Karl F. Ziegler, Kans.

(Editor's Note: Ziegler's article relates the sort of report that Briggs had in mind when he made his request. Undoubtedly, others in the field can make similar contributions and Briggs is anxious for them to come in.)

OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS HAD BETTER EXPLAIN!

While browsing through the January "Field and Stream," I came upon a couple of paid advertisements the text of which causes me some concern. Earl Johnson of Pago, Kansas, advertises cottontails and jack rabbits for sale for restocking purposes at very attractive prices. The Conrad C. Durant Animal Company of Woodward, Oklahoma, will furnish any number of cottontails and jack rabbits for restocking, guarantees live arrival, and will furnish a health certificate.

It is now common knowledge that certain parts of the Kearney, Nebraska District are suffering an epidemic of rabbit damage to the trees planted therein. We have been at a loss to account for the heavy infestation of these rodents which seems to have taken place almost over night. Could it be that our fellow workers to the south are involved in a monstrous conspiracy to rid their areas of these pests at the expense of some of us more slow thinking neighbors? If it is rabbits the public wants, we guarantee to undersell any and all competitors. However, we work by the motto that the only good rabbits are dead ones and we would much prefer to offer our wares without health certificates.

- Lloyd A. Rickel, Nebr.

TURKEYS FOR RENT

"It is a new idea to rent turkeys but it was done this year by a Wyoming owner," says an editorial in the Utah Farmer (October 25). "When a nearby farmer wanted his fields cleaned of grasshoppers he hired the turkeys, paying so much each day until the land was free of the hoppers. In addition to wages for these turkeys, they were fattened at the same time by eating the grasshoppers. If they are taken any distance from home they go in a truck. A herder, a tent and a portable roost go with them."

-- U.S.D.A. Daily Digest, November 2.

WOES OF ONE WITH IDEAS

Last August our Washington photographer, W. H. Shaffer, "shot" many North Dakota and South Dakota shelterbelts. Up he came fresh from exploits in South Dakota. During his first day with me he spent considerable time raving over Ford's accomplishments. Towards evening I inwardly resented this praise of our neighbors.

This resentment paved the way for a greater achievement. Lo, on the following day a bevy of golden, gorgeous, glamorous beauties from Carrington appeared on a nearby shelterbelt. Of course, my California upbringing dictated that they be in shorts. With hoes in hand they constituted a hoeing crew of the first magnitude. Needless to say, photographs were taken and all praise of South Dakota was forgotten.

Alas, and alack, there is an aftermath of this story. The State Office presented me with only one photograph of the bevy. If the supply is not augmented, nine irate girls (with those same hoes) will shortly run me out of town.

N.B. State Office, please take note.

- L. H. Thorpe, N. Dak.

WE UNDERSTAND, BUT WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Texas can assure any "Doubting Thomas" in the Regional Office that at least some of the bowling scores which the members of the R. O. staff bring back to Lincoln after a field trip are correct. With our own eyes we saw Ed Perry bowl three games here in Wichita Falls, and shortly thereafter the alleys caught fire, the flames destroying the building in which the alleys were housed and an adjacent structure. What further proof could be desired that this R.O. candidate for fame was creating lots of instantaneous, extemporaneous and/or spontaneous combustion?

Incidental notice to the would-be bowlers on the Lincoln roster: We are informed that the new alleys will be in readiness about January 15. This should be sufficient advance warning for you to plan your Texas inspections before such an elegant alibi is out of date

- Texas

Correction, please! Probably the thing that set the place afire was my face after being beaten three straight by Maurine Alexander. But being off my native heath has nothing to do with it. When I bowl at home, odds-on bets are freely offered that my ball will wind up anywhere but in the pins.

- E.L.P.

"VIVID" DESCRIBES OTHER LANGUAGE, TOO

Vividness of Language depends largely on knowing what words not to use. In general, the principle of a telegram applies to all writing: Leave out everything that does not really help the main point; make every expression earn its floor space. The injunction is to be interpreted differently by the writer of a novel, an essay or an engineering report; but when it is broken ... you get writing which is ineffective. Much business writing errs in this way. It is loaded down with words which are colorless, clumsy, or feeble, which the writers have used without stopping to think.

From: "Language for Men of Affairs"

- Six Twenty Six

RABBIT REPELLENT

Can any one supply reliable data regarding the effectiveness of repellents as a rodent-control measure?

Harold Corbett, a farmer living in east central Alfalfa County, Oklahoma believes he has discovered a sure cure for trees suffering from rabbit damage.

The following formula in the quantity shown was applied to 250 chinese elm seedlings with excellent results.

1 lb. flaked glue
2 lbs. powdered sulphur
3 gal. slaked lime
Add sufficient water to form a thick paste

This mixture was applied in the fall of 1938 to one-year-old seedlings planted that spring.

In December, 1939, the repellent was still intact and there are no signs of rabbit damage although the planting is located within the boundaries of a natural rabbit habitat.

The solution has had no apparent harmful effects on the seedlings to date. In fact, definitely opposite results.

-- Edwin C. Wilbur, Okla.

FIRE ON THE HIGHWAYS

"This car is equipped with ash trays conveniently located in the dash and on each side of the rear seat." So stated the salesman who proudly demonstrated the new 1940 model with all the new features. Then he said, "You won't have to throw your fire out the window and take the risk of setting our highways on fire burning our grass and our trees."

That salesman made a strong plea for conservation. Fire is the forester's most feared enemy. A forest fire can burn large areas in a short time. Such a fire will destroy resources that took possibly a hundred or more years to create. It isn't always the loss of the trees that is the biggest loss but forests are like sponges and many a city depends on that sponge in the forests to take up water and release it regularly as a city water supply.

"This car is equipped with ash trays." To Kansans this should mean much. Kansas Highways cannot be beautiful without grass and trees. The Highway Commission has told its maintenance men not to burn the roadsides and not to destroy the trees. Have you noticed places where the trees are pruned up and where they have been protected? Look next time you are on the highways.

Kansas needs trees. We need them for shade, for beauty, for wood, for wildlife, for lumber, for posts, for shelter, for windbreaks, for shelterbelts. There's nothing that adds more to a landscape than trees. We are woefully short on shade and shelter. Can your Post do something to help tree planting along in your community? If you think you can, ask

the Forester. You can reach him by writing the State Office of the American Legion in Topeka.

- T. Russell Reitz

(This article was furnished the Kansas American Legion to be published in their monthly bulletin - T.R.R.)

SHELTERBELT SIGNS AS MERIT BADGES

Inducing a competitive spirit among shelterbelt cooperators is one of the basic ways to secure adequate maintenance of the plantings. In order to bring about this sort of competition, North Dakota hit upon the idea of offering a shelterbelt sign as a sort of merit badge to the cooperator in a community who has kept his belt up best. The selection is made primarily, of course, from those belts which are situated along well-traveled highways to insure that the sign will perform its essential PR function.

After a canvass of all belts suitable from a location standpoint, the farmer tentatively selected is visited. He is told that his efforts at good maintenance are appreciated and that if he believes he can keep his belt in that condition we might put a sign there. Then we leave him and let the idea soak in for a while. In a week or so, if he has not already visited the Forest Service office, we visit the belt and the cooperator again. This time we probably do not discuss the sign again unless the cooperator himself brings up the subject. Even so, we make no definite commitment right then but let him wait another week or so until he begins to feel that he just has to have a sign.

When the farmer reaches the proper stage of impatience, we finally put up a sign. Then the meaning of these signs is discussed with him and the point is made that it is something of an honor to have one and act as a living example of what the Project can do with proper cooperation from the farmer. He is also warned that failure on his part to keep up proper maintenance will result in removal of the sign.

If a sign is removed, it is not replaced at once even if the belt is cleaned up slick as a whistle right away. Usually six months or a year is allowed to elapse before it is put up again.

Some curious results have followed. One man, an old Indian fighter, jumped into his Model-T and covered every main road in the county to see who else had signs. He is sure, to this day, that he has the finest belt in the county if not the state, and he just about does, too, because his inordinate pride would never permit that sign to be removed.

The keynote of the success of this system is dependent upon thoroughly impressing the farmer with the desirability of public recognition of good work and perhaps even more important is the prompt removal of a sign from a belt where maintenance has fallen off.

- Kenneth W. Taylor, N-Dak.

WELL - HERE WE ARE, GIRLS

It is universally said that, "Life begins at 40," and Kansas stenographers say that this is not even controversial - '40 is a leap year.

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

FORD LIKES THE STUDY COURSE

This correspondence course on Timber Management dope is my first experience with such courses. I'm beginning to believe they are all right. They are arranged "cute" enough to look like "duck soup" but when you get to putting down the answers you get to wondering if you are right. Then you browse through the TM "bible" and like as not you find you were wrong. They force you to read dope you otherwise would not have read and it's dope we all should have read in the first place. Golf gives you the exercise and makes you like it. This correspondence course thing likewise makes you read and makes you like it. I think the whole deal is O.K.

Upon my return to the office yesterday from a field trip, I found a heated argument going on between "Barney" Wichmann, "Cal" Oamek and "Slim" Leyson. It looked bad, as apparently blows were about to be struck and the argument was verging on profanity, in fact, in places it was "over verging." Listening in, the argument went something like this:

"Put her down that way if you want to but I think you are nuts." The reply was, "Nuts, my eye, look at what it says here." Back came, "Oh, yah, but look at this paragraph." Then the third party said, "You are both cockeyed, the answer 'ain't' on that page at all, what's the matter, can't you birds read?"

Those fellows were arguing about that question on the cause of tenancy in the first examination in TM and, strange as it seems, it was after office hours. And the best part of it was they were having a darned good time. That sort of opened my eyes to the fact that maybe this study course thing is really going to accomplish things that I honestly didn't expect it would. The term "study course" irks me, however, because to me it just doesn't fit this kind of an outfit. It sounds too much like we are all carrying our handkerchiefs up one sleeve and go in for manicures and hair waves. Who can suggest a better name?

- A. L. Ford, S.Dak.

THESE MEN KNOW TREES' VALUE!

Recently examples of the protective value of shelterbelts have come to our attention. One shows what happened when trees were removed, the other shows what happened when they were planted.

A. A. Harbert, who lives near Willowdale, Kansas, removed a single row of mulberry from a field on his farm in 1935. The next year, soil blowing started and continued until stopped by listing. Prior to the time the "hedge row" of mulberry was removed, this field had not been troubled with soil blowing. So much for the first example.

The second instance is the experience of H. W. Lampe of Nashville, Kansas. In 1932 he planted a shelterbelt consisting of one row of mulberry and one row of American elm. The second year after this planting was made, soil blowing on the adjacent field was stopped. Prior to the time the planting was made, the adjacent field had blown very badly.

- Robert A. Dellberg, Kans.

FARM BUREAU AND GRANGE SUPPORT PSFP

Both the National Grange and the American Farm Bureau definitely committed themselves in support of the PSFP as a part of a well-balanced forestry program they espoused.

The Grange met at Joliet, Illinois, November 15 to 23, and adopted the following forestry resolution:

"Whereas, We desire to insure a continuous supply of forest products to increase employment and farm income, to conserve watersheds, soils and wildlife, and;

"Whereas, Seventy percent of all forest lands are in private ownership and one-fourth are in farm woodlots;

"We favor:

1. The restoration of timber production and application of good forestry practices on private lands not primarily suited to cultivation through voluntary cooperative or leasing agreements between the landowner and the Secretary of Agriculture.
2. More Federal aid to private owners under the principle of the Clarke-McNary Act (Federal Government participation on a 50-50 basis with States and private owners, States administering the funds under Federal Standards) for control of forest fires, insects and diseases.
3. Critically needed Federal forest research and speedy completion of the Forest Survey of the United States.
4. Speeding up acquisition and addition to the National Forests of forest and submarginal lands mainly unsuitable for private ownership. Allocation of purchases to be fair and equitable to states with new Federal Purchase Units. We believe, however, that an adequate compensation should be paid local governmental units in lieu of taxes.

We further believe that the 25 percentum of yields from National Forests should be liberalized so local governmental units can use the funds for any purpose.

5. Improved protection and administration of the National Forests and with emphasis on more intensified range administration; better protection against fire and blister rust; more adequate personnel for administration of wildlife protection, care of camp grounds and forest improvements; better forest roads and trails.
6. Placing the Prairie States Forestry Project on a dependable instead of an emergency basis.
7. We reaffirm previous action taken by the National Grange demanding that the Forest Service remain a function of the Department

of Agriculture and ask that the administration of the Taylor Grazing Act (for handling grazing on heretofore unreserved and unregulated lands in western States) be transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture.

The resolution of the American Farm Bureau, which met at Chicago early in December, is along virtually the same lines and is given below:

"We reiterate our uncompromising opposition to the transfer of the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to any other branch of government. We insist that all the functions of government relating to plant and animal life be retained in or returned to the Department of Agriculture.

"We reaffirm forest conservation resolutions adopted at Nashville, December, 1934, and supplemented annually, with special emphasis on:

"Farm forestry; adequate and regular funds for administration of the Prairie States Forestry Project; more adequate control of forest fires, insects, and diseases on private lands through full federal participation under the principle of the Clarke-McNary Act; federal research in all phases of forestry; early completion of the Forest Survey; speeding up acquisition and addition to the National Forests of forest and submarginal lands mainly unsuited to private ownership, with equitable compensation to local governing units for loss of taxes; improved administration of the National Forests, especially in management of range, wildlife and recreation areas, in control of fire and diseases, in developing roads and other improvements.

"We authorize our Board of Directors, after a thorough study, to take such action as they deem desirable on the so-called forest restoration plan for voluntary cooperative or lending agreements between the Secretary of Agriculture and private owners to secure good forest practices on farm woodlots and other private lands not primarily suited for cultivation.

"In carrying out these features of the above program affecting farm lands, we insist that all agencies concerned, both Federal and State, work through and in cooperation with the Land Grant institutions and organized farmers. We favor the greatest possible local responsibility consistent with good administration."

WELL, MAYBE A BACHELOR CAN DO THIS

One cooperator in the Altus (Oklahoma) territory has solved his cultivation problem in an admirable manner. He is a bachelor and takes life fairly easy, and his cultivation routine is as follows:

Starting after breakfast each morning, he hand hoes a row of shelter-belt trees while he awaits arrival at about 11 o'clock of the mail carrier with the daily newspaper and other mail. While he hoes, this cooperator also combats the drought by putting a dipperful of water at the base of each tree.

Thus, this farmer does not loaf while waiting for his mail. He makes use of his idle time -- avoiding the monotony of just waiting, and his belt is always well cared for.

- Ted Raide, Okla.

THE CAUTIONLET IN CASE!

Attention, Messrs. William W. Catlow, Kansas, and Maurice C. Yearsley, Oklahoma. Referring to your items in Nos. 8 and 9, respectively, of Vol. 4 of PLAINS FORESTER, let me urge you to retain your equilibrium, shirt, or what have you.

I am no longer in the Cheyenne subdistrict and I cannot supply you with final measurements on our outstanding growth inasmuch as my measurements were taken in July, the early part, at that, as I remember. I am sure the final figures would stagger the most credible of you.

I am truly sorry that I must turn the torch over to Claude Asp, who is now at Cheyenne, but I know that he won't let the subdistrict down.

Now to get down to business.

My new range is the Cherokee subdistrict, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, which includes some of the best agricultural land in the state.

I hereby give warning that in one year from now our 1940 belts will AVERAGE as much as or more than your BEST 1940 belts.

Let's see you better that one.

- Fred Yaruss, Okla.

ON YOUR TOES, BOYS, ON YOUR TOES!

When I was first notified in 1935 of my transfer from the St. Joe National Forest in Region 1 to the then "Plains Shelterbelt Project," all of my friends greeted me with the stock comment. "So you're going back to plant trees where the Almighty couldn't make them grow." To which my only reply was that perhaps "The Almighty needed a little help."

A few years have slipped by and in November, 1939, I was back among my friends on the St. Joe. Opinions had changed; all of my friends greeted me with "I understand you fellows are really getting results back there; tell me about it. Have you any pictures? Gee, I'd like to come back and look over the job."

I was fortunate in having a reel of 8 mm. film, which gave them a little idea of results and, of course, I modestly admitted that North Dakota couldn't show the results in height growth that the other States had to offer.

One of them, Neil Fullerton, Associate Forester, has his natal home in Lawton, Oklahoma, and soon was to leave for a visit there. I hope he has seen and become convinced.

All of this brings me to another question of progress(?).

Those of us who first came to this Project chortled with glee over the fact that "at last we were on a project where we could really be foresters instead of just property custodians or fire fighters." We had in mind many things; for example, the District Ranger who argued strongly for closing the forests to all public use because John Tourist's presence

increased his fire problem, or the Fire Control Planning Specialist who planned (and many times built) all the forest roads on the tops of the ridges where they were only good for fire control, instead of in the drainages where they would also serve the Forest Utilization and Recreational interests.

Recently I've heard quite a few comments out on the ground among the field. Examples: "We can't plant Chinese elm. Rabbits are bad on it," or "It's subject to root rot." "Caragana is subject to grasshoppers," or "Guess we'll have to quit planting cottonwood. Cytospora or borers are beginning to take it." Or, "We could get lots more applications if we didn't fence," etc., etc.

All of this sort of makes me wonder. Most of us have seen a lot of foresters lose their perspective when the job load piles up. I can't help but remark, "How about it, fellows? Are we going to continue as foresters on this job, or slide back into the role of a mere custodian who is only interested in getting a lot of work done in a big way?"

- L. A. Williams, N.Dak.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE THEIR ADVANTAGES

We have heard of belts being planted around schools for educational purposes and we have heard of belts being planted on fair grounds in order that we may have shade while attending the fair. We were quite surprised, however, when a newly appointed Subdistrict Officer looked over the field and then planted a belt on the grounds of the State Hospital for the Insane. Inasmuch as we always attempt to think in terms of long-time planning, we did not give this belt much consideration until quite recently when we received quite a jolt. We learned that the operator and his 200 permanent assistants have watered every tree, hand hoed the belt several times, and have machine cultivated it many times. Furthermore, if the Subdistrict Officer wishes any additional work done, it is performed immediately on request.

The operator's endeavors have evidently brought forth fruit in a hurry, as a story is being told around Jamestown that the 200 permanent assistants have been climbing the trees in order that they might eat chokecherries.

We are aware of the fact that these citations are examples of short-time planning and while we appreciate these efforts, we expect that it will be some time before some of us can actively enjoy the shade produced in the belt or its fruits thereof.

As this belt was planted in 1939, I would not vouch for the cherry story, but it is probably true.

- Earle C. Thomas, N.Dak.

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

So far as wildlife is concerned, Project personnel has been interested primarily in the game and insectivorous birds in the shelterbelts, but a recent Kansas report indicates that wildlife management education is a job right now with wildlife communities developing in the older belts with

amazing rapidity. Pocket gophers, kangaroo rats and mice, for instance, follow easing up on cultivation as canopies close --- and badgers follow them. Cottontails, jack rabbits and other rodents are natural food for coyotes --- and, much as farmers hate them, coyotes have gravitated to the plantings.

Answers to questionnaires from owners of 55 shelterbelts ranging from one to five years old furnished the information. Quail, pheasants, doves, woodpeckers, bluejays, meadowlarks, blackbirds, orioles, swallows, robins, wrens and thrushes thronged the shelterbelts throughout the summer, while a few sparrows, scissortails, mockingbirds, brown thrushes, snowbirds, martins and pigeons were seen at various times. The farmers estimated that 1,400 quail, 250 pheasants, 4,300 doves and more than 10,000 small insectivorous birds called those shelterbelts home. Besides, about 400 hawks, 7,000 crows and 182 owls were reported.

Besides the birds, more than 30 opossum, 8 weasels, more than 200 skunks, 33 badgers, nearly 70 coyotes, 200 squirrels, 700 pocket gophers, 1,100 kangaroo rats, 3,000 mice, 3,000 jack rabbits, 1,200 cottontails and a few snakes were noted.

One must realize that these figures are estimates and that there are many duplications, but even so they total up to a sum that leads us to believe that all States are due for surprises when they scrutinize their plantings more carefully.

---o---

At this time when Major Generals are again dispensing medals for deeds of valor, Ye Ed wants to put in a claim for recognition of the sacrifices the fair sex will make to uphold an ideal. Here's the why:

On the morning of December 26, those who walked to work had to tramp through more than four inches of nice white snow. Everyone was ensconced at his proper place right on time, however, but a few minutes later Edna Dundis complained of cold feet. And no wonder! Sans overshoes or rubbers, she had strode through the snow to work -- in open-toed shoes. Sure she had other shoes -- some with whole toes -- but, "Gee, one can't wear brown shoes with a blue dress."

--o--

The County Commissioners saw and were convinced -- and the county road to the nursery was promptly graded. That, in short, is the summary of information on a demonstration trip report submitted by Sam Byars, in charge of the Chickasha, Oklahoma, nursery. The group was made up of the County Commissioners and newspaper reporters from Chickasha, six persons in all, and besides the road-grading job Byars received a couple of good newspaper stories.

---o---

District Officers have their troubles but, as a rule, being the recipients of kindness to an excessive degree is not one of them. Perhaps,

however, the Cassian mien of Earle Thomas of Valley City, North Dakota, aroused the sympathies of the natives, or Earle got mixed up on his dinner dates. At any rate, he made the following comment in reporting an address at a Barnes County farmers' meeting. "Was forced to eat two very heavy meals within one hour; consequently was not up to par and delivered a \$50 talk rather than the previously arranged \$100 talk."

---O---

Apparently it is with satisfaction that State Director Nelson of Oklahoma informs us that the Chickasha Nursery probably will produce considerably more usable trees than was indicated in the last inventory report, and that seed collection has been satisfactory to the extent that there probably will be surpluses in several species. The red cedar berry crop was good, but the quality of the seed is generally poor, as is the green ash seed, he reports.

Jack is up to his neck right now with applications troubles. On the one hand, he is favored by greater public interest, more experience by his personnel, more active support by civic organizations and the better advertising value of established shelterbelts. On the other hand, however, are the tendencies of farmers to see the effects of the European war on farm commodity prices, lethargy resulting from the long drought, and the farm tenant situation.

The replanting job is likely to be large, the State Director says, and it is becoming apparent that the older plantings will need more attention than was thought necessary early in the program. He points out, for instance, that some plantings are at a standstill as to growth and that studies of the plantings and their condition should be started immediately. Such studies, he contends, may point to improvements in our present practices and also may furnish information as to the management of the plantings.

---O---

"Professor" Kenneth Taylor of North Dakota is doing his stuff nowadays, having been called in from the north on a detail to the Regional Office to conduct the study course. He and Mrs. Taylor have taken temporary abode in Lincoln. No kidding, Ken Taylor is an ex-university pedagogue, and if you haven't already received his first brain teasers they'll be along shortly. But here's a tip: If the PSFP schoolboys wish to cast baleful glances cast them not at Ken but at the State Directors; the Directors decided at their annual meeting that "A little schoolin' never hurt nobody."

---O---

It seems that we have one really original nurseryman - even if TM does think his scheme is somewhat cockeyed. He is Elmer W. Luke, nurseryman at Purcell, Oklahoma. Dave Olson tells it. He was looking over the nursery last summer and found one block which contained numerous species, the result, Dave says, of several resowings but each of the sowings

contributing to the stand. Luke says differently, however. "This is just a tryout of a new idea I've in mind," he told Dave. "I'll grow the whole composition in the nursery in such a way that when a row of nursery stock is dug, it'll yield the required trees for a half-mile of shelterbelt. That'll do away with the job of assembling trees. It'll be a great time-saver." Dave just shakes his head.

--o--

Only two of the PSFP witnesses were heard by the Joint Congressional Committee on Forestry at Madison, Wisconsin, December 18 and 19. They are Dr. George E. Condra, Director of the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, and W. H. Brokaw, Director of Extension. Only a portion of the prospective witnesses who assembled from all over the Middle West could be heard during the two days allotted for the hearings. Upon adjournment of the hearings proper, the new shelterbelt motion picture was shown to the group.

--o--

Funny, the reactions you get to something you put up to interest people; sometimes it seems almost tragic, when you have painstakingly assembled an exhibit setting forth fundamental information clearly and simply only to have some minor detail capture the public's fancy. Ted Stebbins must have wondered after hearing some of the comments from the 800 persons who viewed his exhibit at the Lyons, Kansas, Farm Bureau Silver Jubilee celebration October 24 and 25. There were a county shelterbelt map, impressive photographs showing need for and values of shelterbelts, views of representative belts, and an assortment of tree seeds in his elaborate exhibit and it is true that the significance of the display was not lost to a large portion of the crowd. Some were cooperators and many others were seriously interested in the exhibit, conceding that the "shelterbelt project is really a good thing." But -- how about these: "Oh, look at the lovely leaves," and no more, "I never knew cottonwoods had seeds," or "All you need now is a squirrel." Oh, well, the mills grind slowly and the germs of ideas spread even thus can become profusely flowering plants.

--o--

Western Oklahoma winds have stopped blowing the foundation "out from under" the Era Sasseen farm home near Dill, in Washita County, so the Sasseen family has decided to abandon plans for moving, says a story printed November 16 in the Oklahoma City Times under a Clinton date line. The credit all goes to the shelterbelt planted on Sasseen's farm in 1936. The explanation follows:

"It had become an annual event for the Sasseen farm house to require a new foundation or plenty of foundation repair because the wind blew all the sand and dirt away from the concrete footings, weakening them to the point of giving away beneath the weight of the house.

"In 1936 Sasseen had shelterbelt trees planted on his sandy land farm and now the foundation of his house is secure because the trees break the force of the winds. He can grow grass and shrubs in the front yard, which was once only a sand dune, and the family feels that the house and surrounding property is safe from wind as long as it is hiding behind the long rows of trees."